

Serial No. To Be Assigned

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	DeVries, et al	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	TO BE ASSIGNED	Group Art Unit:	TO BE ASSIGNED
Filed:	7/31/03	Docket No.:	00601.0352-US-C1
Title:	VOICE-PRODUCING PROSTHESIS		

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper or fee, as described herein, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: B. Luhman

B. Luhman

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment into the above-referenced application.

**SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows. A clean copy of the amended paragraphs is included below. A marked up copy of the amended paragraphs are included in Appendix A.

Please amend the specification by inserting the section headings as follows:

On page 1, beginning at line 1, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

1. Field of the Invention.

On page 1, beginning at line 23, please insert the following:

2. Description of the Related Art.

On page 2, beginning at line 35, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

On page 3, beginning at line 29, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

On page 4, beginning at line 19, please insert the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, lines 7-14 as follows:

A voice-producing prosthesis is known from EP-B-0 573 888. In this prosthesis a vibrations-generating element is placed in the shunt valve in the wall between the trachea and the esophagus. However, in this prosthesis the problem also occurs that the voice sounds substantially less natural and less understandable than that of a person with healthy, intact vocal cords.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 4-6 as follows:

An object of the present invention is achieved according to the present invention by carrying out a voice-producing prosthesis.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 17-18 as follows:

Very advantageous practical examples of the invention are laid down herein.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 19-28 as follows:

According to a practical possibility of the invention, a one-way valve is disclosed herein. By incorporating a voice-producing prosthesis according to the invention as a modular part in such a valve, it is made possible with a limited number of variants of the valve and the prosthesis to achieve a high degree of adaptation to, on the one hand, the patient's stature and, on the other hand, the patient's original vocal properties. In principle, such a voice-producing prosthesis can be used in any valve between the trachea and the esophagus.